

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 CU-02 SCCT-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01

/084 W

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P R 091018Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9707

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BM

SUBJECT: CONTINUED UNREST

REF: RANGOON 1513

1. AS OF AFTERNOON JUNE 9, LARGE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE GATHERED ON UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS AND ARE APPARENTLY MARCHING TO VARIOUS POINTS AROUND TOWN. ONE GROUP OF A FEW THOUSAND PROCEEDED TOWARD THE RANGOON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE INSEIN INDUSTRIAL AREA, PERHAPS IN AN EFFORT TO GENERATE SUPPORT FROM WORKERS. CROWD BRIEFLY RALLIED AT INSEIN JAIL BUT DEPARTED PEACEFULLY. OTHER SMALLER GROUP MARCHED ELSEWHERE IN RANGOON. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO THE AGIVERSITY AND INSEIN INDUSTRIAL AREAS HAS BEEN HALTED WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD LIMIT THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON HAND AT THE INSEIN TEXTILE PLANT AND JUTE MILL WHERE THE SLOWDOWN STRIKE TURNED TO A SITDOWN PROTEST JUNE 6. REPAIR SHOP AT CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION JOINED STRIKE JUNE 9. GUB HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT ALL UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES ARE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY AND STUDENTS ARE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME TOWNS WHERE ALLEGEDLY THEY MAY TAKE THEIR EXAMS.

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2. STUDENTS PASSED OUT HANDBILLS MORNING OF JUNE 9 DENYING GUB INTIMATIONS IN WEEKEND PRESS (WHICH HAS COVERED EVENTS IN SURPRISING DETAIL) OF BCP INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT PROTESTS AND LISTING STUDENT DEMANDS. THESE INCLUDE FREEING WORKERS DETAINED LAST JUNE AND STUDENTS STILL HELD FROM LAST DECEMBER, PERMISSION TO FORM A STUDENT UNION, NO REPRISALS AGAINST DEMONSTRATING STUDENTS AND WORKERS AND AN END TO UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION.

3. TODAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS FOLLOW A WEEKEND OF INTERMITTENT PROTESTS. A GROUP OF SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS MARCHED INTO RANGOON JUNE 7 AND STAGED A PEACEFUL RALLY IN FRONT OF CITY HALL AT WHICH COFFINS SYMBOLIZING NE WIN AND SAN YU WERE BURIED. GROUP DISPERSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. ON EVENING OF JUNE 8, STUDENTS ALLEGEDLY JOINED BY SOME WORKERS COMMANDEERED SEVERAL BUSES AND TOURED THE CITY SHOUTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT SLOGANS.

4. ON THE RASU CAMPUS, STUDENTS EVENING OF JUNE 6 BROKE INTO CONVOCATION HALL AND REOVVED OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND BURNED PICTURE OF NE WIN. EARLIER IN THE DAY, CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER DR. HLA HAN, CONTINUING THE GUB'S CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN ITS POLICIES TO STUDENTS AND WORKERS (REFTEL), ATTEMPTED TO ADDRESS THE RASU STUDENTS BUT APPARENTLY WAS SHOUTED DOWN AND FORCED TO LEAVE THE CAMPUS. AN EFFORT BY THE RECTOR TO CONVINCE THE STUDENTS TO CEASE THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS MORNING OF JUNE 7 ALSO FAILED.

5. OUTSIDE RANGOON, SITUATION APPEARS LARGELY PEACEFUL. CEC MEMBERS AND MINISTERS HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH WORKERS IN CHAUK, MOULMEIN AND MANDALAY. ANCONSUL MANDALAY REPORTS NO ACTIVITY THERE UNTIL JUNE 9, ALTHOUGH TRADE MINISTER DR. MAUNG LWIN, IN MEETING WITH MANDALAY STUDENTS, GOT AS HOSTILE A RECEPTION AS HLA HAN IN RANGOON. ON JUNE 9 ABOUT 1000 STUDENTS ASSEMBLED AT MASU CAMPUS, AND SMALL GROUP TOOK OVER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN WHICH THEY HAVE LOCKED THEMSELVES. MAIN BODY MARCHED TO MANDALAY MARKET, TRYING ON WAY TO ATTRACT SUPPORT OF MEDICAL STUDENTS ONLY A FEW OF WHOM JOINED GROUP. AT 1600 LOCAL TIME GROUP WAS STILL AT MARKET WHERE A CROWD OF 2,000 - 2,500 WAS LISTENING QUIETLY TO SPEECHES. NO VIOLENCE OR INTERFERENCE BY AUTHORITIES.

6. GUB REACTION TO EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN MEASURED; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN FACT, BOTH SIDES HAVE THUS FAR AT LEAST ATTEMPTED TO AVOID SERIOUS CONFRONTATION. SECURITY FORCES HAVE NOT INTERFERED ON CAMPUS OR WITH THE STUDENTS' MARCHES. HOWEVER, MORE TROOPS ARE NOW IN EVIDENCE IN THE VICINITY OF THE EMBASSY AND THE BSPP HEADQUARTERS BEHIND IT, THOUGH SECURITY PRECAUTIONS REMAIN INCONSPICUOUS. PRESS COVERAGE OF CAMPUS;3,5 -6 -) 9 ?3 ?78)\$8,& &497,\$ *94)3&-) CASE AGAINST STUDENT LEADERS CITING DESTRUCTION OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND "SZRDITIOUS" MATERIAL FOUND IN STUDENT

HANDBILLS "USING WORDS COPIED FROM BCP REBEL BROADCASTS". GUB IS
REPORTEDLY HOPING THAT CLOSING UNIVERSITY WILL DEFUSE SITUATION.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RANGOO01534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750200-0621
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750668/aaaackbm.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 RANGOON 1513
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUED UNREST
TAGS: PINT, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006